



FREEDOM WATCH



December 14, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from
CNN.com)

Iraqi jet tried to trap U.S. jets

WASHINGTON — An Iraqi fighter jet attempted to lead two U.S. fighter planes over a battery of surface-to-air missiles Friday in the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. Aware of the missiles' location, the U.S. planes turned south to avoid the potential trap. The pilots knew the location of the missiles because of training and coalition surveillance capabilities. Pentagon officials describe this circumstance as a "SAM-bush" and say it has happened before. SAM is a military acronym for surface-to-air missiles. Officials with the U.S. Central Command are investigating the incident. The no-fly zones, designed to protect Kurds in northern Iraq and Shiites in the southern part of the country from the Iraqi regime, have been a bone of contention between the U.S.-British coalition and Iraq since they were established after the Persian Gulf War in 1991 — without a specific U.N. resolution.

See **BRIEFS**, Page 3

Troops get free books

By Capt. Alayne Cramer
*Combined Joint Task
Force - 180*

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — One of the many advantages for servicemembers deployed to a far away land is the receipt of free items from time to time. Troops can visit Red Cross facilities at base camps throughout Afghanistan and choose snacks and personal hygiene items from overflowing baskets. Many units get "adopted" by organizations in the states and receive care packages on a



Photo by Spc. John Slosser, XVIII Airborne Corps

A soldier picks up a free copy of *Medal of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present* available at Bagram Air Base and Kandahar Air Field.

routine basis. Unit first sergeants may also hand out phone cards donated by AT&T or MCI during the holiday season.

But for the first time in 55 years,

servicemembers deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom are participating in the largest free distribution of non-fiction books in the history of the world. Servicemembers

can now pick up their free "cargo pocket" size copy of *Medal of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present*

See **BOOK**, Page 2

Vietnam refugee gives back to America

By Sgt. Reebea Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Born and raised in Vietnam, Staff Sgt. Thinh Huynh, squad leader, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., escaped for America when he was 10.

The South Army that worked with the Americans employed Huynh's father, Duc. When the south fell, he was taken prisoner for nine years.

"Mom took care of me, my five

siblings and my grandparents," Huynh said.

Upon release, Duc was on the black list, which meant he couldn't get a job and his family couldn't go to school.

Because of money problems, Huynh, his sister Thanh and Duc escaped the country by boat in October 1986.

"We spent 10 days in the ocean," Huynh said. "There were a total of 86 people in that old '75 fishing boat."

While on the boat, a typhoon rolled in and the engine died. The boat drifted south. The group was

short on food and fresh water. On the fourth day, they saw an oil rig.

"They gave us water and each day, one person drank small amounts of water," Huynh said.

This helped them survive for three days until they landed in Malaysia.

"I remember people brought us food," Huynh said. "I asked if this was America."

Kuala Lumpur police took the trio to a United Nations refugee camp, where they resided for two

See **VIETNAM**, Page 2

BOOK, from Page 1

at various locations on Bagram Air Base and Kandahar Air Field.

This giveaway was made possible by the Legacy Project, a national, all-volunteer effort dedicated to encouraging Americans to seek out and preserve wartime correspondence before the letters are lost or damaged. The Legacy Project worked with the Pentagon and major publishers to coordinate distribution of the first "Armed Service Editions" to American troops since World War II.

First published in 1943, more than 123 million ASEs were handed out to U.S. troops overseas. This giveaway represented

the largest free distribution of fiction and non-fiction books in the history of the world. More than 1,300 titles in all were published, including mysteries, biographies, crime stories, adventure novels and classic works of literature by such authors as Hemingway, Steinbeck and Melville.

The original ASEs were discontinued in 1947. Hyperion, Simon & Schuster, and Dover Publications teamed up and are distributing free ASEs to American troops throughout the world and on U.S. warships November and December. Troops in Afghanistan received 1,000 books.

The books are reformatted in the same "cargo pocket" size and

have the same vintage appearance as the original ASEs from World War II. But unlike the original ASEs, these new books are paid for with private donations.

"The ASE giveaway of the 1940s is one of history's great forgotten stories," said Project Coordinator Andrew Carroll and editor of the national bestseller *War Letters*. "There is no limit to the demand for these books, and I hope this is just the beginning of a much larger effort."

Servicemembers deployed to Afghanistan need not look far for their personal copy of *Medal of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present*. The

American Red Cross at Kandahar is handling the distribution of the books there. Troops stationed at Bagram can pick up their book from various points on the base camp. Pick-up stations will be set up at the dining facilities, Red Cross, all major unit areas, Motel 6, Motel 8 and at least a dozen other areas across the air base.

Every effort will be made to get books to fire bases and remote locations. If servicemembers in your unit have not received a copy of this book and would like one, call Capt. Alayne Cramer at DSN 303-587-5632 or e-mail cramera@cjtfl180.army.mil.

Books are available as long as the supply lasts.

Mailing antique weapons

Antique Firearms sent as curios or museum pieces may be accepted for mailing, but must include proper documentation signed by United States Customs officials.

Without the *signed* documents, the mailer is sending the weapon at their own risk, allowing U.S. Customs officials to confiscate the weapon.

To import a firearm, visit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Web site at www.atf.treas.gov and download the ATF F-6 Part II (5330.3B) application form. This form also includes details on the application process.

VIETNAM, from Page 1

years.

"There were 12,000 Viet, Laos, Thai people at the camp," Huynh recalled. "It sucked. A long-stretched was house divided in sections. Four to eight people were living in each section. It was really crammed and they passed out rice and fish once a week."

Huynh said Duc was hoping the United States would grant him political asylum. They did.

The Huynh trio landed in Los Angeles Sept. 18, 1989 before boarding a plane to Des Moines, Iowa.

To come to America, someone needed to sponsor the Huynh's. Their prayers were answered in the community of Nevada, Iowa.

"All the churches in the town were in a discussion and they

decided to sponsor a family. We were picked at random," Huynh said. "Mary, a Catholic, Pearl, a Lutheran and Rayola, a Baptist, were lined up in Nevada, Iowa to meet us."

Culture shock set in for Huynh.

"When first came to American, we landed in Iowa with the clothes we were wearing," he said. "They took us to a new house. I had never seen so much food. Everyone was so nice."

Huynh went to school for the first time at age 13, not knowing any English.

In 1992, his mother, Tang, and one brother, Thoi, came to America. The rest of the family joined them over the years, except for one sister, Mai, who still resides in Vietnam.

Huynh enlisted in the Army in 1997.



Photo by Sgt. Reebea Critser

Staff Sgt. Thinh Huynh, squad leader in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., gives his soldiers advice on overseas assignments.

"I wanted to give something back to America," he said. "I'm doing my part even though I'm a small number.

"I'm hoping some other family will enjoy the life that was given to my family — protected freedom."

HIND SIGHT

1799

George Washington dies on his Mount Vernon estate.

1900

Max Planck presents the quantum theory at the Physics Society in Berlin.

1906

The first U1 submarine is brought into service in Germany.

1911

Roald Amundsen and four others discover the South Pole.

1946

The United Nations adopt a disarmament resolution prohibiting the A-Bomb.

1980

NATO warns the Soviets to stay out of the internal affairs of Poland, saying that intervention would effectively destroy the détente between the East and West.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

Tension as inspectors locked out

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The top Iraqi and U.N. monitoring officials were called to a Baghdad health center Friday after U.N. weapons inspectors reported a problem tagging equipment during a routine search for evidence of weapons of mass destruction. A gatekeeper at the facility — which had never been searched before by the U.N. — said the inspection team was locked out of several rooms at the site because the employees holding the keys were not at work Friday, a Muslim holy day. U.S. officials say they believe Iraq's declaration of its weapons of mass destruction program falls "far, far, far short" of a complete report.

EU seals historic expansion deal

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The European Union has agreed the financial terms to bring in 10 countries. The deal clears the way for Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus to join the 15-member union in May 2004. Speaking after Friday's deal, Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, said: "Accession of 10 new member states will bring an end to the divisions in Europe. For the first time in history Europe will become one because unification is the free will of its people."

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Reign of Fire" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building. Tomorrow's movie will be "Life or Something Like It," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Rain</i> H: 54F L: 30F	<i>Rain</i> H: 55F L: 28F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 64F L: 37F	<i>Haze</i> H: 61F L: 34F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 52F L: 30F	<i>Haze</i> H: 54F L: 27F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Snow</i> H: 38F L: 29F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 39F L: 28F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

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Visit the CENTCOM Web site to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil



COALITION SPORTSZONE



2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami, Fla.	2.93
2. Ohio State	3.97
3. Georgia	8.37
4. USC	10.51
5. Iowa	10.79
6. Washington St.	16.14
7. Oklahoma	16.79
8. Kansas St.	20.13
9. Notre Dame	20.93
10. Texas	21.08
11. Michigan	23.91
12. Penn St.	26.97
13. Colorado	33.27
14. Florida St.	33.95
15. West Virginia	35.97

Neuheisel claims he wants to remain at Washington

It's bowl season, coaches are being fired left and right, and that means coaching rumors are all the rage, too.

One of the hottest rumors coming out of Los Angeles is that Washington coach Rick Neuheisel is interested in returning to his alma mater, UCLA, after the Bruins fired coach Bob Toledo last week. Neuheisel, for his part, has been trying to focus on the Huskies' game against Purdue in the Wells Fargo Sun Bowl on Dec. 31. On Thursday, the LA Times ran a story saying Neuheisel "reportedly is willing to take a pay cut to come to UCLA and is trying to set up a meeting with (UCLA Athletic Director Dan) Guerrero."

"I don't have any desire to change jobs," Neuheisel said. "(UCLA) is a great institution and I obviously have a great affinity for them. But I've got a great situation at Washington."

Neuheisel also said he wanted to "finish what I've started" at Washington, the *Seattle Times* reported.

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Report: Griffey wants to be consulted on trading rumors

There is more and more evidence to believe that the Reds' Ken Griffey Jr. is on the trading block.

The latest indication came out of a report in Sports Weekly, when Griffey himself admitted he doesn't want to play where he's not wanted.

"If they feel like they want to trade me, or just don't want me anymore, go ahead," Griffey told Sports Weekly. "There's nothing I can do if they trade me. They can do what they want. If they want to trade me, trade me."

Although the Reds might try to shop Griffey at this weekend's winter meetings in Nashville, another deal involving Junior reportedly fell through last month.

White Sox general manager Ken Williams said that Cincinnati contacted him about a possible trade for Magglio Ordonez, MLB.com reported Thursday.

"Was I contacted by the Reds? Yes," Williams told the Web site. "Did I take a week to think about it? No. How long did I think about it? About five seconds. I have no desire to trade Magglio Ordonez to anyone."

"The only reason I will respond is because I want Magglio Ordonez to understand his importance and value to this organization."

Earlier in December, the Reds and Padres discussed a deal involving Griffey and Phil Nevin, but the trade wasn't finalized because Nevin refused to waive the no-trade clause in his current contract.

"My only disappointment with the last week or so has been not the Reds' necessity to feel they need to dump salary, but the manner in which they did so many things."



2002 NBA standings

Western Conference

Midwest

(1) Dallas	19-3
(3) Houston	12-8
(4) San Antonio	13-9
(5) Minnesota	13-10
(7) Utah	12-10

Pacific

(2) Sacramento	18-6
(6) Seattle	13-10
(8) Phoenix	12-10
Portland	10-11
L.A. Clippers	9-13

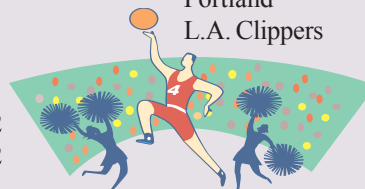
Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	16-7
(4) Boston	15-7
(6) Philadelphia	15-8
(7) Orlando	13-11
Washington	9-13

Central

(1) Indiana	17-5
(3) New Orleans	16-7
(5) Detroit	14-7
(8) Atlanta	10-12
Milwaukee	10-12



Health risk too great for Richter to come back

When anything bad happens to a player, it's tragic.

But Mike Richter is also one of the greatest guys in the league. So, if he's got to sit out to ensure a long, happy life for himself, than it's something that has to be done. Richter is much too valuable to the human race to take unnecessary risks.

At this stage of his career, it's doubtful 36-year-old Richter will return to the game. The chance of another injury is too great. And when you're talking about head injuries — to say nothing of his two rebuilt knees — it's serious stuff. There will most likely be a lot more pushing him away than enticing him back. I'm guessing we've seen the last of him in the NHL.

Mike is the type of guy who has a positive attitude regarding anything that happens to him — this should not be the exception.

In the meantime, Glen Sather stepped up to the plate and made a bold move by getting Nashville's keeper, Mike Dunham. The acquisition alleviated a ton of weight from the shoulders of 19-year-old Dan Blackburn, who has already started in 17 games this season. It wouldn't have been right to ask the youngster to continue at that pace.

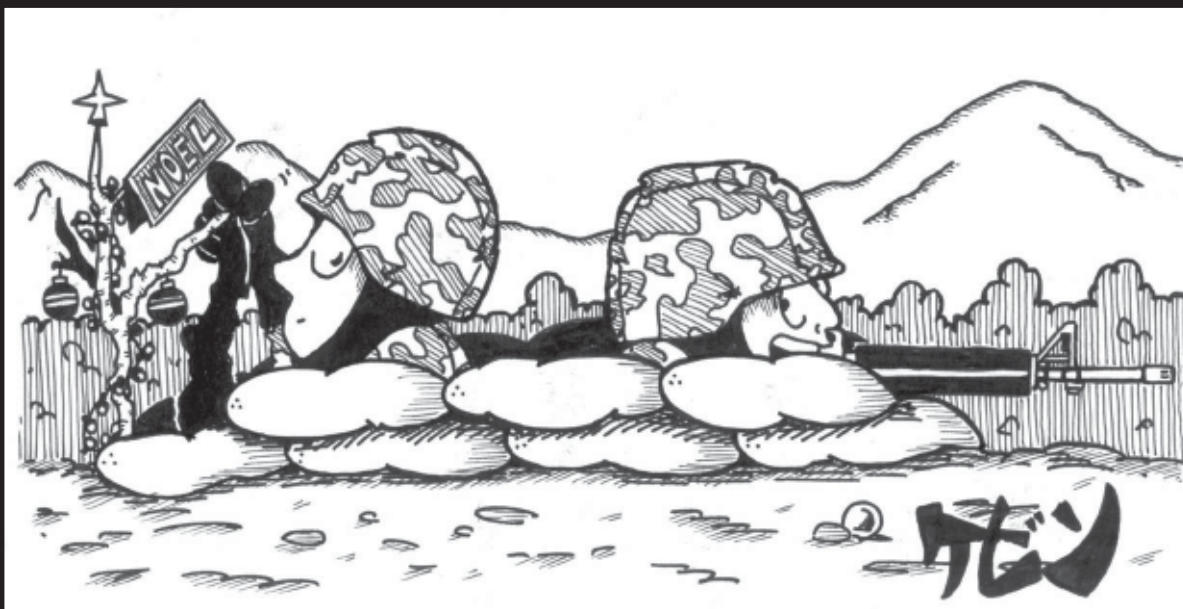
To get Dunham, Sather had to pay a price. He had to take a player off his roster plus a couple of prospects. But if Dunham can turn his game around (he's been struggling a bit so far), he'll really help the Rangers.

Solution from Friday's Tied Up Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

C	A	R	O	L		E	M	M	A			L	A	S
A	L	I	V	E		L	O	A	D		S	I	N	E
R	O	P	E	S	T	I	T	C	H		I	N	G	E
S	T	A	R		O	A	T		E	S	T	E	E	M
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		O	L	I	V	E	S		S	H	O	R	E	S
A	F	F	I	X	E	D		B	O	O	R			
P	A	W	N	E	R		P	R	O		A	B	B	A
O	B	O	E		S	T	R	I	N	G	B	E	A	N
D	I	O	R		E	W	A	N		A	L	L	I	N
S	O	D			D	O	M	E		B	E	L	L	E

“Careful with that, it's my last dry sock.”



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support